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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 11 March 1952

SUBJECT 1. Coastal Defenses in the Port of Gdansk
2. Maritime Activity in the Port of Gdansk
25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. A large building site was observed near the narrowest passage of Westerplatte in Danzig-Weichselmunde from 10 to 12 April 1951. The site was surrounded by a high fence. Concrete mixers were in operation. Large quantities of building material and reinforcement iron arrived continuously and were carried to the building site. Longshoremen stated that, on 15 April 1951, a large box, 12 to 14 meters long, was set ashore by a floating crane at the harbor basin of the building yard and was carried to the building site. A loud report different from that of a blasting operation was heard from the direction of the building site at about 2.30 p.m. on 26 April 1951. The building operations were finished on 11 May 1951. The concrete mixers stood on the building yard ready for shipment. Building material was no longer unloaded. The temporary electrical unit was permanently installed. The place was closely guarded. Sentries were accompanied by dogs.

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Night work was also observed when a ship was in harbor from 31 March to 3 April 1951. The building site was brightly illuminated, the concrete mixer was heard. At 10:35 a.m. on 31 May 1951, six loud reports were heard from the building site. The intervals between the reports after the second report were 5 seconds. It was impossible to find out whether one or more guns were fired because the view was blocked by thick smoke. The caliber was estimated at about 200 mm. Firing was in a seaward direction, but no impacts were observed. *

On 10 April 1951, an unfinished new vessel, about 18 to 20 meters long, lay alongside the quay in Danzig-Neufahrwasser. Her hull was made of steel about 2 or 3 mm thick. The forecastle extended about one third of her total length and had a circular track for mounting a gun. There was a wheelhouse half-way between stem and stern, and at the stern there was a sope-winch mount. The boat had a raking stem and a square stern. On 21 April, the vessel was towed upstream and in the evening taken to sea by the same tug. No engines were installed at that time. Late in April, a similar boat [redacted] was seen making trial runs

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4. On 9 May 1951, five small navy craft about 20 meters long, each equipped with a 20 mm gun on the forecastle, were berthed near the lighthouse of Neufahrwasser. A small navy vessel, marked T.H. 178 and a little larger than these vessels, was observed near Gdingen. ** She had a 40 mm gun and carried an AA gun on the forecastle. Four Polish warships entered the harbor at 11 a.m. on 11 May 1951 and were moored alongside the quay at Westerplatte. These boats, about 65 to 70 meters long, were manned by Polish naval personnel.
5. The berths of the steamers were more closely guarded after a Swedish ship's engineer was arrested for taking pictures at the coal harbor. German sailors were not allowed to go ashore even if serving on Swedish ships.
6. Work at the coal harbor of Danzig Weichselmunde was done in three shifts. Since Soviet vessels were granted priority over any other ships, vessels were occasionally left half-loaded in order to service newly arrived Soviet vessels first. The entire coal harbor was surrounded by a high fence. A sentry armed with a submachine gun or a rifle was posted in front of each vessel. Before leaving harbor, all vessels were searched by 8 to 10 men with a dog. They searched for stowaways particularly in the cargo. The clearing formalities were time consuming; comprehensive questionnaires had to be filled in.
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- * Comment. Presumably a new coastal battery of which firing trials were observed. They indicate that the approximate location of the battery is 54°24.3'N/18°41.3'E.
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- ** Comment. The vessel is believed to be a new type of patrol or escort vessel. More accurate identification is not yet possible from the data known.
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